

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks, have canceled claims and have amended claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-27 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 12, 21 and 24 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 13-20, 22-23 and 25-27 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 6, 20 and 22 are independent claims.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ro for completing and returning a copy of the PTO-1449 form enclosed with the Information Disclosure Statement mailed July 18, 2005. During Applicants' review of the completed PTO-1449 form, Applicants noted Examiner Ro's statement that a search report is not a prior art reference.

Applicants wish to point out that nothing precludes a search report from being processed as a prior art reference, or from a search report being listed as a prior art reference on the cover of an issued patent. Such processing has been provided by the Patent Office on numerous occasions.

Accordingly, Applicants have provided another copy of the earlier-submitted PTO-1449 form with this Amendment. Applicants respectfully request that Examiner Ro initial this PTO-1449 form next to the search report entry so that the search report may be listed as prior art on the cover of the issued patent. Applicants wish to express appreciation for Examiner Ro's kind attention to this matter.

Allowed Claims

Claims 6-17, 21 and 24 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-5, 9-19, 25 and 27

Rather than rewrite claim 12 to include all of the limitations of claim 1 from which claim 12 originally depended, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 12 and subsequently canceled claim 12.

Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 2-6, 9-11, 13-19, 25 and 27 depend from and further limit, claim 1, claims 2-6, 9-11, 13-19, 25 and 27 are now in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 6-8

Applicants have rewritten claim 6 to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 7-8 depend from claim 6, claims 7-8 are now in allowable condition as well.

Claims 20-21 and 26

Rather than rewrite claim 21 to include all of the limitations of claim 20 from which claim 21 originally depended, Applicants have rewritten claim 20 to include all of the limitations of claim 21 and subsequently canceled claim 21. Accordingly, claim 20 is now in allowable condition.

Because claim 26 depends from and further limits claim 20, claim 26 is now in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 22-24

Rather than rewrite claim 24 to include all of the limitations of claim 22 from which claim 24 originally depended, Applicants have rewritten claim 22 to include all of the limitations of claim 24 and subsequently canceled claim 24. Accordingly, claim 22 is now in allowable condition.

Because claim 23 depends from and further limits claim 22, claim 23 is now in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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